

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USNATO 2240

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR NATO MNUC

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM BELGIAN AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE TO SYG

LUNS ON NUNN AMENDMENT NUCLEAR REPORT

REF: A. USNATO 1918

B. USNATO 2023

1. MISSION PROVIDES IN PARA 3 BELOW INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF FRENCH TEXT OF A 22 APRIL 1975 LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE TO SYG LUNS ON THE NUNN AMENDMENT NUCLEAR REPORT. AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE WROTE THE LETTER IN RESPONSE TO SYG LUNS PO/75/38 (REF A) REQUESTING ALLIED REACTIONS TO THE REPORT.

2. MISSION CALLS WASHINGTONS ATTENTION TO DE STAERCKES COMMENTS ON THE DATA ON THE NATO/WP MILITARY BALANCE CONTAINED IN PAGE 6 OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT NUCLEAR REPROT. IN REVIEWING THE PROPOSED UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF THE FULL REPORT WITH COL GOLDSTEING ON APRIL 21(REF B) , WE OBSERVED THAT PAGE 6 WOULD BE DELETED. THIS SHOULD SERVE TO MEET DE STAERCKES CONCERN,

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AND MISSION URGES WASHINGTON TO MAINTAIN DELETION OF PAGE 6 DURING COURSE OF FINAL REVIEW OF THE UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF THE FULL REPORT. IF PRESSURES SURFACE IN CONGRESS TO DE- CLASSIFY DATA SUCH AS THIS, WE WOULD NEED TO GIVE CAREFUL

CONSIDERATION TO (1) THE ADVISABILITY OF DOING SO INLIGHT OF THE TYPES OF CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY DE STAERCKE, AND (2) CONSULTATION STEPS WITH THE ALLIES.

3. BEGING TEXT OF AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKES LETTER:

DEAR MR SECRETARY GENERAL:

I HAVE LOOKED AT DOCUMENT BRU/NSA/75/5 CONTAINING THE REPORT OF THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ADDRESSED TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC LAW 93/365 CONCERNING THE RATER NUCLEAR FORCES DEPLOYED IN EUROPE. I CANNOT FAIL TO POINT OUT HOW HIGHLY I VALUE THIS REPORT WHICH IS REMARKABLE IN ITS COVERAGE.

I AM PARTICULARY GLAD THAT IT CONTAINS THE VIEW WHCIH THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP HAD EXPRESSED AND WHICH YOU COMMUNICATED TO THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN YOUR LETTER OF 28 FEBRUARY 1975.

I AN HOWEVER, CONCERNED ABOUT ONE POINT: THE TABLE ON PAGE 6 OF THE REPORT. IN FACT, I BELIEVE THAT THE FIGURES SHOWN, IF KNOWN AND WRONGLY INTERPRETED- AND THEY WILL DOUBTLESS BE SO MISINTERPRETED- COULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS NOT ONLY ON THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WHERE WE POINT OUT THE DISPARITIES EXISTING BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES, BUT ALSO IN THE PUBLIC OPINION OF OUR OWN COUNTRIES, WHICH WE ARE CONSTANTLY ASKING TO SUBSCRIBE TO AN INCREASED EFFORT IN THE FIELD OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES. MOREOVER, I FEAR THAT THESE FIGURES WILL CREATE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR MANY GOVERNMENTS, AMONG THEM THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, WHEN THEY ASK THEIR PARLIAMANTS FOR THE CREDITS REQUIRED TO PURSUE THEIR DEFENSE EFFORTS.

SINCE THIS IS AN AMERICAN NATIONAL DOCUMENT, IT IS DOUBTLESS DIFFICULT TO ASK THAT IT BE MODIFIED. BUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER UNDERLINES THE GREAT INTEREST MY AUTHORITIES HAVE IN THE PORBLEMS WHICH COULD BE RAISED IF MR SCHLESINGERS REPORT WERE TO BE PUBLICLY DIVULGED, EVEN PARTIALLY; ON THIS LEVEL, I REFER TO THE STATEMENT MADE BY

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THE AMERICAN DELEGATION DURING THE MEETING HELD BY THE NPG ON 15 MARCH 1975, AND ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF WHICH IT WAS AGREED THAT THE POSSIBLE PUBLICATION OF ELEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENTS IN QUESTION WOULD BE EFFECTED ONLY AFTER CONSULTATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OCCASION TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO TWO ARTICLES, RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE 11 APRIL EDITION OF "NOUVELLES ATLANTIQUES" AND ALSO IN THE 11 APRIL EDITION OF THE "BRUSSELS TIMES", WHCH MAKE A POINT OF A MODIFICATION IN THE AMERICAN EVALUATION OF THE FORCES PRESNE T WITHIN NATO AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WARSAW PACT. SUCH SPECULATION CLEARLY DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE PURSUIT OF THE GOALS WHIHC THE ALLIANCE IS ENDEAVORING TO ATTAIN, NAMELY, THE

REINFORCEMENT OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES.

FINALLY, I CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE LIMITED EFFECTS
RATIONALIZATION AND SPECIALIZATION ARE SUSCEPTIBLE OF HAVING
ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES, AT LEAST IN SOME OF
THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

I HAVE FORWARDED COPIES OF THIS LETTER TO ALL THE MEMBERS
OF THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP.
PLEASE BE ASSURED OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

END TEXT. BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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